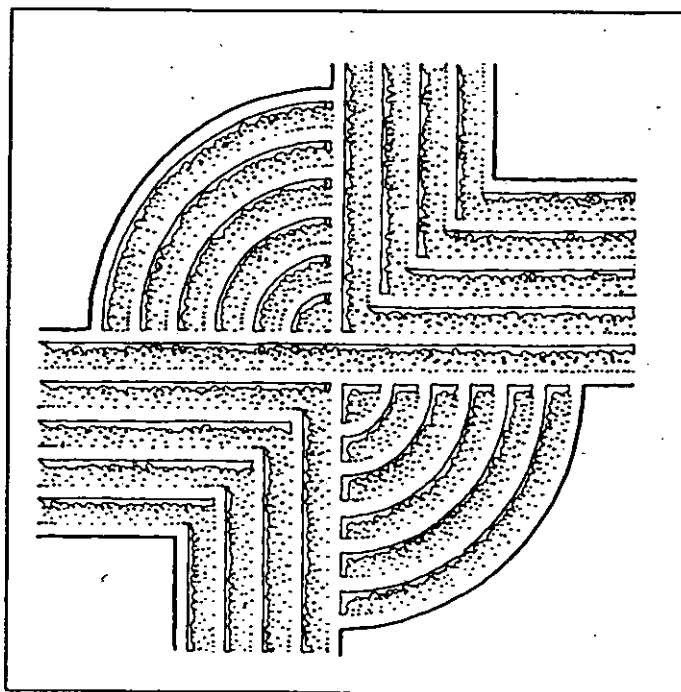


MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL
MITIGATION AT 38BU591 SOUTH, HAIG POINT,
DAUFUSKIE ISLAND [BEAUFORT COUNTY, SOUTH
CAROLINA]



RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION 32

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION
AT 38BU591 SOUTH, HAIG POINT, DAUFUSKIE ISLAND

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Introduction

As a result of a reconnaissance level archaeological survey conducted by Michie (1983) of portions of Daufuskie Island in Beaufort County, South Carolina, the S.C. State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) defined sixteen sites as eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (letter from Ms. Christie Fant, dated September 21, 1987, to Mr. Ray Pantlik). Because of limited boundary information for most of these sites Chicora Foundation was contracted by International Paper Realty Corporation of South Carolina in May 1988 to provide additional information for planning purposes (Trinkley 1988). This additional work by Chicora included shovel testing sufficient to determine the boundaries of 38BU591 South, also known as Haig Point Plantation. International Paper, in the process of advancing development plans for the area containing this site, requested that Chicora prepare a research design for the mitigation of the site.

Chicora entered into an agreement on January 13, 1989 with International Paper to conduct the necessary archaeological investigations at the site, based on our December 9, 1988 proposal. The research design was approved by the SHPO on December 21, 1988. This work involves excavation at all four of the concentrations noted by the shovel testing, although only the two densest concentrations were to be intensively examined.

This present management summary has been prepared immediately upon completion of the fieldwork and does not contain information on artifact analysis. It is intended solely to provide a brief descriptive statement of the work conducted by Chicora and to allow the SHPO to verify that the proposed work has actually been accomplished.

Archaeological investigations were begun at 38BU591 South on January 17 and continued through February 6, 1989. A crew of four to five people spent a total of 554 person hours in the field. As a result of this work 1000 square feet of site area were opened and 998.5 cubic feet of soil and shell were moved in primary excavations, all screened through either 1/4 or 1/8-inch mesh.

Previous Site Surveys

This site, also known as the Haig Point Lighthouse, is situated on a relatively high bluff overlooking Calibogue Sound on the Haig Point tract. The site is situated on excessively drained Wando soils and the central UTM coordinates are E515400

N3556260. The site elevation ranges from 15 to 20 feet (4.6 to 6.2 meters) MSL. Portions of this site were first examined by Michie (1983:63-67). Michie's excavation "to the rear" of the lighthouse was placed in the old plantation house, although this was not immediately recognized. Michie also identified two shell middens south of the lighthouse, although these middens were not tested. Brown conducted additional work at this site in 1985 and 1986 (Lepionka 1988), identifying the various archaeological components of the main Haig Point plantation house. At the same time Lepionka (1988) apparently conducted some very limited testing south of the main house site, concentrating on an area he refers to as 38BU591 South. This locus was situated approximately 210 feet (65 meters) south of the lighthouse and Lepionka reports finding a thin scatter of artifacts and brick rubble (including a possible brick chimney section), but no in situ architectural remains or features.

This previous work by Brown and Lepionka has yielded mean ceramic dates of 1809 for the area south of the lighthouse and 1816 for the main house (Lepionka 1988:174). Both dates are clearly too early by as much as 20 years. Since the original collections have not been examined, no independent explanation for this disparity can be offered. The artifact pattern analyses offered by Lepionka (1988:173) clearly reveal that the main house was largely abandoned before its destruction, while the area south of the main house fails to correspond to any previously established patterns. Additional investigation is required to begin to understand these anomalies.

Regardless, this previous work has not fully investigated the entire plantation complex and none of the support structures shown on the 1859-1860 map of the plantation have been identified. The main goal of the Chicora survey work was to establish definite boundaries for the main plantation complex and also to isolate areas within the plantation, in addition to the main house, which require protection or further investigation. These investigations included the placement of five transects running east-west south of the main house at 50 foot (16 meter) intervals with a total of 70 shovel tests excavated at 25 foot (8 meter) intervals. To the north of the main house six transects, running north-south parallel to the shore, were established at 50 foot (16 meter) intervals with a total of 50 shovel tests, placed at 50 foot (16 meter) intervals.

This work revealed four loci south of the main house. The first is somewhat sparse and poorly defined, but is situated at the southern edge of the boundary about 150 feet (46 meters) inland from the bluff edge. The second is better defined, measuring about 50 feet in diameter, and is situated about 100 feet (31 meters) from the southern boundary and 400 feet (123 meters) inland. The third locus is clearly defined and measures about 80 feet (25 meters) in diameter. It is situated in the

and were separately photographed, plotted, and profiled during their removal. The feature fill was screened through 1/8-inch mesh to improve on the recovery rate of faunal materials.

Field notes were prepared on archival paper and photographic material was processed to archival standards. All original field notes, with archival copies, will be curated at The Environmental and Historical Museum of Hilton Head Island, as Accession Number 1989.1. All specimens will be evaluated for conservation needs and will be treated prior to curation.

Unit 70R120 (a 10-foot square), at the south edge of the site, was excavated to investigate the sparse scatter of artifacts identified by the previous survey. This unit consisted of a brown humic sand, Zone 1, overlying the top of the yellow subsoil sand. Artifact density was very low and the area evidenced limited disturbance from the golf course construction. No additional work was conducted in this area.

Unit 120R90 (a 10-foot square) was excavated in the center of a large (30-foot diameter) shell midden. The stratigraphy consisted of a dense oyster shell midden (Zone 1A) overlying and protecting the old humus (Zone 2). The midden, based on a preliminary examination of artifacts, appears to date from the late antebellum, while the old humus dates from the late eighteenth century. The shell midden zone yielded a large quantity of animal bone.

Units 140R80-100 and 150R75 (exposing 350 square feet) represent the largest block opened at the site. This excavation was placed to locate the source of the dense artifact concentration revealed by the previous testing. Stratigraphy was complex and included Zone 1 (brown humus) at the surface of the most of the area; Zone 1A, the toe of the shell midden investigated in 120R90 to the south; Zone 1AA, the toe of a shell midden situated to the northeast of the units; and Zone 2, the old humus. This excavation revealed the remains of a mortar wattle and daub chimney (Feature 2) with the fire box opening to the northwest, a dripline (Features 4-5) associated with the structure, three large post supports along the southwest of the structure, a door entrance-way (Feature 6), evidence of yard deposits, and evidence of underhouse deposits. This slave house, termed Structure 1, appears to date from the last quarter of the eighteenth century and measures approximately 16 feet square.

Unit 160R60 (a 10-foot square) was excavated to investigate another shell midden to the northwest. Stratigraphy included the Zone 1A shell midden overlying the Zone 2 old humus. This unit, however, revealed evidence of an eighteenth century roadbed running approximately northwest-southeast (Features 7-9), immediately adjacent to the structure identified in units 140R80-100 and 150R75. The artifacts from Zone 1A suggest a possible

central portion of the tract south of the main house, about 280 feet (86 meters) from the bluff edge. The fourth and densest locus originates in the lighthouse tract and extends south in the southern tract about 60 feet (18 meters). To the north of the main house there are no clear loci which relate to the Haig Point Plantation.

These findings were thought to compare favorably with the 1859-1860 map of Haig Point which shows no support structures between the northern slave row and the main house, only woods. The main house has a formal garden area to both sides and to the west-southwest, which corresponds with the very low density of antebellum artifacts found in these areas. At least four support structures are shown to the south of the main house, which may generally correspond with those identified in the testing program. The support structures shown 800 to 1200 feet (246 to 369 meters) to the west and southwest of the main house are in the area of the fourth fairway and the Haig Point Road relocation.

Excavations

The grid, established at N10°W, was tied into the southeast corner of the brick wick house (428.4R100) to the north and a rod (50R100) to the south in order to maintain long-term horizontal control. Vertical control was maintained through the use of a mean sea level datum (the rod at 50R100, 15.72 feet MSL).

The site area was sufficiently small and the vegetation open enough to allow the site to be gridded from the established baseline. A modified Chicago 10-foot grid was established, with each square designated by its southeast corner, from a 0R0 point to the southwest of the site. Thus, the southeast corner of square 10R10 would be north 10 feet and right (or east) 10 feet from the 0R0 point.

Soil from the non-midden excavations was screened through 1/4-inch mesh using mechanical sifters. Soil from the shell middens was screened through 1/8-inch mesh to improve the recovery of small animal bones. In addition, a 2-foot square sample of each midden was weighed prior to sifting and the shell, collected for analysis, was weighed after screening. This provided a quantified statement of shell density for each of the middens. Shellfish analysis will include species diversity, habitat information, and season of collection. Primary species involved in these studies will be oyster and clam.

Units were troweled at the top of the subsoil, photographed in b/w and color slides, and plotted. Excavation was by natural soil zones and soil samples were routinely collected. Features were usually bisected, with both small soil samples and flotation samples collected. Features were excavated by natural soil zones

postbellum association for the midden, although this temporal placement may be refined by more detailed analysis.

Units 270R75-85 (exposing 150 square feet) were opened to explore the edge of a depression on the north side of the site area. In 270R85 Zone 1 consisted of an upper brown sandy humic zone overlying yellow sand subsoil. Feature 1 was identified as a badly decayed tabby pier running north-south (the total length of the pier is estimated to be about 8 feet, 2 feet of which are within the unit). Unit 270R75 contained the same Zone 1 soil. Running north-south through this unit is a tabby brick and poured tabby wall (Feature 10). To the west of this wall is heavy rubble from the demolition of this structure, including dense architectural artifacts and finely finished wall plaster. This rubble was not thoroughly investigated because of a lack of field time, although it is possible that it represents the fill of a semi-subterranean basement (designated Feature 11). Through the use of slot trenches and shovel tests, this structure was found to measure 32 feet north-south and 30 feet east-west, with all but the northwest corner verified in the field. These remains have been designated Structure 2 and appear to represent a high status domestic unit associated with the main plantation house.

Units 290R95-105 (opening 200 square feet) consist of an upper humic level (Zone 1) overlying yellow sand subsoil (Zone 1 was disturbed in the western half of 290R95, but was intact to the east). Although no cultural features were identified in these squares, a tree stain was designated Feature 3. In addition, several small (i.e., 3-foot diameter) pockets of shell were identified in Zone 1. These are interpreted to represent discard from a nearby kitchen (the location of which has not been identified, but is thought to be in the vicinity of the wick house, about 160 feet to the north). Remains from these units included both eighteenth and nineteenth century artifacts, although the nineteenth century remains are more numerous and are largely burnt. The faunal assemblage from this area of the site appears to be high status (as indicated by marine fish and caprine remains) -- supporting the proximity of the plantation kitchen.

Finally, evidence of a third structure was identified during backfilling operations. The southwest corner of a tabby brick structure was found about 20 feet northwest of the 160R60 square. Construction features strongly suggest an association with the main plantation complex.

Interpretations

Although there has been considerable historical research conducted on Daufuskie Island, including Starr's (1986) study of Haig Point, this previous research has provided only a superficial understanding of the late antebellum occupation of

the Haig Point Plantation. For example, Starr (1986:19) devotes less than a single page to the tenure of William Pope, who acquired the plantation in 1852.

The Haig Point tract has been traced back to a 1735 survey for Archibald Neile, although no grant has been located (Starr 1986:11). The property took on the name of its subsequent owners, George Haig I, II, and III. Throughout this time the property was apparently undeveloped and Starr (1986:15) notes that an 1810 advertisement for the tract describes the property as "400 acres (more or less) of valuable COTTON LAND," rather than as a "cotton plantation" which would suggest an active operation. The property was purchased in 1810 by John David Mongin, along with the southern plantation known as Freeport, for his son David John Mongin.

John David Mongin's plantation was at Bloody Point and the diary of Jeremiah Evarts indicates that David John Mongin and his wife Sarah were living at Bloody Point during his visit in 1822 (Starr 1986:17). In fact, Evarts makes no mention of any main house at Haig Point, which seems unusual considering Brooker's remarks that "the house must have formed a striking landmark" (Brooker n.d.:71). The 1820 census, however, indicates that 93 slaves may have been living on the Haig Point Plantation (Starr 1986:17).

David John Mongin died in 1823, leaving the property to his widow, Sarah. In 1825 she marries the Reverend Hiram Blodgett, although she remains the sole administrator of David John Mongin's estate (which includes both Haig Point and Freeport). The 1830 census lists two properties which belong to her deceased husband's estate. Although Starr (1986:18) is equivocal, it seems likely that the one listed simply as "Mongin, David John, Jr., Est." probably represents Haig Point. If so, there were 85 slaves on the plantation at that time. The other property, with 89 slaves, is listed as "Blodgett, Herman & Mr. Webb & Mr. Coe" and seems to represent the Freeport Plantation.

The first documented reference to the main house at Haig Point Plantation is the 1833 obituary for Sarah, who died in the house. In 1840 Sarah's husband, Hiram Blodgett, was still living at the main house and the plantation had 109 slaves. Blodgett sold the plantation in 1850 to William Pope, Sr., who owned three plantations on Hilton Head Island and two additional plantations in St. Luke's Parish (Starr 1986:18-19). Regrettably, the 1860 census combines all of Pope's holdings for St. Luke's Parish and we know only that Pope owned 200 slaves in 65 houses (approximately three slaves per house) (Starr 1986:19). It seems likely that the Haig Point Plantation was entirely an absentee holding, desired by Pope for its economic potential. However, this line of speculation has received little attention and the exact place of Haig Point in Pope's holdings is unknown.

Haig Point was abandoned after the November 1861 invasion of the Port Royal area and the property was purchased by the Federal Government in 1865. Restoration by the Pope heirs was achieved by 1872, although it is likely that the plantation house was either abandoned, or actually destroyed, by that time. One of the heirs was Eliza Woodward, who may have had a structure in the vicinity of 38BU628 (known as the Woodward House Site), based on the 1873 Law and Kirk map of Beaufort County (U.S. Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks, Map 87155). The Haig Point Lighthouse and associated structures were built on top of the old plantation house between 1873 and 1895.

Although this historical documentation is rather sparse, it seems likely that the impressive main plantation house at Haig Point was built after David John Mongin's death in 1823 by his widow. Prior to this time David John may have lived at his father's plantation on Bloody Point, where he was found in 1822 by Evarts. This is not inconsistent with either the archaeological or architectural evidence and is based on the absence of any mention of a structure in the Evarts diary. Starr (1986:17) suggests a construction date as early as 1820 based on a separate listing for David John Mongin in the 1820 census and "common sense." However, it can be argued that an individual such as David John Mongin who "every evening . . . is so overcome with strong drink, as to be silly [and] every morning, full of pain, languor, and destitute of appetite" (Evarts' diary, quoted in Starr 1984:68) would have been incapable of envisioning and implementing the construction of the Haig Point mansion. It seems more likely that either David John Mongin's widow, or his father, built the house after his death.

This recent archaeological study, however, clearly reveals that slaves were living on the Haig Point Plantation prior to Mongin's purchase of the plantation from George Haig III in 1810. The single eighteenth century slave cabin reported here (Structure 1) appears to have been of pegged frame construction with the sill raised from the ground. The chimney was mortar wattle and daub and the interior walls may have received a light mortar plaster. At least one door was present on the southwest elevation, opening out to a sandy, rutted "street." In addition, the archaeological remains suggest at least one glazed window was present. At the present time, it appears that this structure was built in the last quarter of the eighteenth century and may have remained occupied through the early nineteenth century. It is likely, however, that it was torn down during Blodgett's construction activities after 1823. Although this study could not verify the presence of additional structures, excavations in 160R60, to the northwest of Structure 1, revealed additional wall plaster fall. It is probable that additional eighteenth century slave cabins exist in at least a single row northwest of Structure 1.

Evidence of at least two substantial poured tabby and tabby brick structures, dating from the period of the main plantation house construction, also has been identified. Structure 2 appears to be a large, 32 by 30 foot, structure of high status. The presence of a probable porch pier support facing the east (or water) suggests that this structure may have been a flanker to the main house. Too little evidence of the third structure was identified during this study to allow speculation on its size or function in the plantation context.

The presence of at least two late antebellum middens strongly suggest that additional slave structures, dating to the same time period as those from 38BU634, may be found in this immediate area. The presence of additional cabins built by Pope after his purchase in 1850 would help resolve the problem of adequate housing for the 100+ slaves thought to have been on Haig Point immediately before the Civil War.

Finally, the presence of potential postbellum remains from one midden may relate to either re-occupation of a late antebellum structure, or may provide evidence of an, as yet, undiscovered late nineteenth century structures built by freedmen.

These excavations have revealed much more than was expected. There is now evidence for occupation of Haig Point prior to its purchase by Mongin in 1820. There is evidence for a major flanker building, with a possible basement, dating from the Blodgett construction episode. There is evidence of at least one additional tabby structure, also dating from this construction period. There is evidence of additional late antebellum slave cabins constructed by Pope immediately prior to the Civil War. And there is evidence of either postbellum occupation, or revived postbellum construction. These remains are important to a clear understanding of the Haig Point Plantation and its change through time.

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